

Application Number 10/563564
Response to the Office Action dated January 13, 2009

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A sample analysis tool comprising:
a substrate; ~~and~~
at least one reagent pad provided on the substrate[.]; and
~~wherein at least one balance pad is provided on the substrate so as to adjust at least one of weight balance and friction balance of the sample analysis tool,~~
wherein the at least one reagent pad is provided on a first end portion of the substrate, and
the at least one balance pad is provided on a second end portion of the substrate opposite to the first end portion at a distance from the at least one reagent pad, and
adjusts at least one of weight balance and friction balance of the sample analysis tool so as to avoid clogging when the sample analysis tool is supplied by a test piece feeder to an examination location.
2. (Previously Presented) The sample analysis tool according to claim 1, wherein
the substrate is in a strip shape,
the second end portion of the substrate serves as a holding portion and a portion other than the holding portion serves as a reagent pad arrangement region,
the at least one reagent pad is provided on a side in the reagent pad arrangement region opposite to a side closer to the holding portion and the at least one balance pad is provided in the reagent pad arrangement region on the side closer to the holding portion or in the holding portion.
3. (Previously Presented) The sample analysis tool according to claim 1, wherein
the substrate is in a strip shape,

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the second end portion of the substrate serves as a holding portion and a portion other than the holding portion serves as a reagent pad arrangement region,

the at least one reagent pad is provided on a side opposite to a side of the holding portion in the reagent pad arrangement region and the at least one balance pad is provided in the holding portion.

4. (Previously Presented) The sample analysis tool according to claim 1, wherein 1 to 8 reagent pads and 1 to 3 balance pads are present.

5. (Previously Presented) The sample analysis tool according to claim 2, wherein two or more of the at least one reagent pad are arranged in series along a longitudinal direction of the strip-shaped substrate.

6. (Previously Presented) The sample analysis tool according to claim 1, wherein the at least one reagent pad contains a reagent for a urinalysis, a biochemical test, a microorganism test, an immunological test, a genetic analysis, an environmental test, a test for an agricultural chemical, or an allergen test.

7. (Previously Presented) The sample analysis tool according to claim 6, wherein the reagent is suitable for urinalysis testing for at least one selected from the group consisting of glucose (GLU), protein (PRO), bilirubin (BIL), urobilinogen (URO), pH, occult blood (BLD), ketone bodies (KET), nitrite (NIT), leukocytes (LEU), S.G. (specific gravity), a color tone, ascorbic acid, a salt concentration, highly-sensitive protein, albumin, creatinine, Bence-Jones protein, hormones, and physiologically active substances, and the at least one reagent pad is provided for each selected test item.

8. (Original) The sample analysis tool according to claim 1, which is analyzed by an analyzer.

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9. (Previously Presented) The sample analysis tool according to claim 1, wherein the at least one balance pad is formed on a rear surface of the substrate on a front face of which the at least one reagent pad is formed.

10. (New) A sample analysis tool comprising:
a substrate; and
at least one reagent pad provided on the substrate; and
at least one balance pad provided on the substrate;
wherein the at least one balance pad provided on the substrate adjusts at least one of weight balance and friction balance of the sample analysis tool,
the at least one reagent pad is provided on one end portion of the substrate,
the at least one balance pad is provided on a second end portion of the substrate opposite to the first end portion at a distance from the at least one reagent pad, and
there is no liquid movement between the balance pad and the reagent pad.

11. (New) The sample analysis tool according to claim 10, wherein two or more of the reagent pad are provided on the substrate.

12. (New) A sample analysis tool comprising:
a substrate;
at least one reagent pad provided on the substrate; and
at least one balance pad provided on the substrate;
wherein the substrate is a single layer,
the at least one balance pad provided on the substrate adjusts at least one of weight balance and friction balance of the sample analysis tool,
the at least one reagent pad is provided on one end portion of the substrate,
the at least one balance pad is provided on a second end portion of the substrate opposite to the first end portion at a distance from the at least one reagent pad, and
the at least one balance pad is provided on the same side with the reagent pad.

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13. (New) The sample analysis tool according to claim 12, wherein two or more of the reagent pad are provided on the substrate.